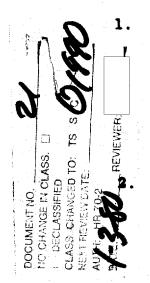
MSC BRIEFING

20 **全** January 1954

# PLARE-UP IN MOROCCO CONFIDENTIAL

## I. Spanish activity:

A. Current flare-up in Morocco results from Madrid's desire:



To irritate France at time when situation lends itself to such action, and springs out Spanish desire to occupy in Morocco position equal to France.

To curry good will in Arab Worl

To curry good will in Arab World by promoting anti-French sentiment by supporting removed Sultan and by vaguely promising more autonomy to Spanish Morocco.

Current assemblage of local Moroccan notables aimed at above objectives not a unilateral Spanish abrogation of 1912 treaty with France which still governs relations in Morocco of two countries.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

25X1

### II. French Position:

- A. France long irritated over Spanish "uncooperative attitude," using this situation in attempt to solicit
  American support for its policies in this area.
- B. France exaggerating and sending military forces into nearby Algeria aimed at impressing Spanish.

# III. Probable Results:

- A. No formal autonomy for Spanish Morocco expected to develop. Status quo anticipated.
- B. No significant change in present situation in Morocco where adequate French military forces maintain uneasy formal public order. 54,000 French troops present.

- C. Spanish Morocco will not become staging area for terrorist attacks on French territory. 60,000 Spanish troops will maintain order in their zone.
- D. Spain will gain little prestige with Arabs. Already indifferent, Spanish-French relations will be strained further.

MSC BRIEFING

20 January 1954

### FLARE-UP IN MOROCCO

#### BACKGROUND

# Spanish-French Controversy over Morocco:

- A. When French dethroned Sultan Mohamed V

  20 August 1953, Spain informally declared
  this unilateral action violation bilateral
  agreement 27 November 1912 establishing
  Spanish protectorate. Therefore refused
  to recognize successor, Mohamed VI.
- B. This position, repeated publication

  provocatory articles by controlled

  Spanish press, and asylum to French

  Moroccan refugees have created considerable

  belligerency French-Spanish relations in

  Morocco.
- C. Both protagonists willing to discuss differences; meither wants to initiate discussions.

D. Spain, meanwhile, closely controls

provocatory activities, has tightly

circumscribed nationalist activities by

imprisoning or expelling offenders, and

has not allowed nationalists to establish

base of operations for attack on French

Morocco. French aware limitations upon

nationalist activity.

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HSC BRIEFING

January 1954

# FLARE-UP IN MOROCCO

#### BACKGROUND

# Practicability of Separating French and Spanish Morocco

- A. Spain historically has repeatedly hinted it would establish separate Moroccan kingdom. Controlled press has since August made recommendation.
- B. It now established that some 600 Spanish Moroccan notables convened Tetuan 20
  January by Spanish officials in "spontaneous demonstration of public opinion" to:
  - 1. Condemn French policy.
  - 2. Approve Spanish policy.
  - 3. Declare continued allegiance to dethroned sultan, Mohamed V.
  - Request separation of Spanish protectorate from rest of Morocco and elevate khalifa (sultan's deputy) to role of "independent prince."

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- C. Khalifa, highest native official Spanish Morocco, and native advisers are known to be lukewarm to move. Spanish Moroccan nationalists strongly disapprove maneuver; unable to oppose it.
- D. Regarding separation of two protectorates, however, an indivisible Moroccan empire has remained fiction of international law since 1912; is not based on fact.

  Pro-forma tie has existed in the fallacy that khalifa is sultan's representative.

  In every other respect two territories have been administered jealously and separately. Liaison between protectorate officials has been completely superficial.

  Real cooperation exists only on the lowest administrative levels.